

# District 25 News

MAKIKI, TANTALUS, MCCULLY, PAPAOLEA

FEBRUARY 2010

## The Shortlist

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010**  
**Census 2010 Information Session and Practice Testing**  
**Makiki District Park Auditorium**  
**@ 6:00 - 8:00pm**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010**  
**Testing Session for the US Census**  
**Makiki District Park Auditorium**  
**@ 6:00 - 7:30pm**

Questions about the 2010 Census?  
Interested in short term work?  
Attend these sessions to find out more!

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2009**  
**One Kalakaua Coffee Talk**  
**@ 2:00 - 3:00 pm**  
One Kalakaua will host Rep. Belatti and guests from the US Census to discuss the 2010 Census, community issues, and the 2010 legislative session.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009**  
**Makiki Town Meeting**  
**Makiki District Park Arts & Crafts Building @ 6:00 - 7:30 pm**  
Area legislators present their mid-session legislative update to the community and host a Q&A session for neighborhood residents.

**TAX PREP WORKSHOPS**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009**  
**State Capitol Conference Rm 329**  
**@ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2009**  
**Arcadia Retirement Community Coffee Talk @ 4:30 - 5:30 pm.**  
Arcadia will host Rep. Belatti for a coffee talk to discuss community issues and the 2010 Census.

*If you have questions about the listed district events, please contact Rep. Belatti's office at 586-9425 or at [rep-belatti@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:rep-belatti@capitol.hawaii.gov).*

Kung hee fat choy!

As we ring in the Year of the Tiger, the Hawaii State Legislature is hard at work with informational briefings, committee meetings, speeches, and floor sessions.

This edition of *District 25 News* covers some of the hot bills being considered this session. You'll also find useful information on how you can become more involved in the legislative process.

In this month's *Shortlist*, you'll find numerous community events that provide opportunities to learn about the 2010 US Census, get assistance with tax preparation, or discuss legislation and community issues.

And just for fun, *District 25 News* wraps up with a recap of the successful MLK Day of Service at Makiki District Park. As always, please contact my office at [repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov) or at 586-9425 if you have any questions, comments or concerns about legislative and community matters.

With warmest aloha,

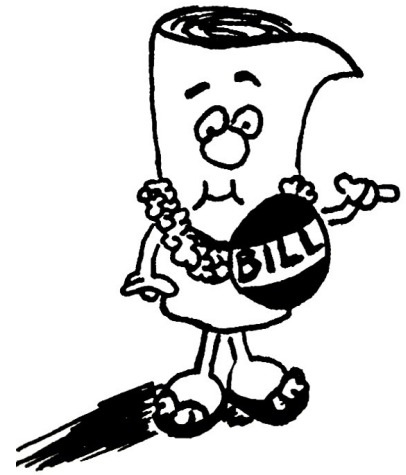


Della Au Belatti  
State Representative, District 25



January 20, 2010—  
Representative Della Au Belatti with family members on opening day of the 2010 Legislative Session.

# The ABCs of the Legislative Process



How a bill becomes a law is a complicated process. Each year, the Legislature provides *An Abridged Citizen's Guide to Participation in the Legislative Process* to those interested in being involved in this process.

To obtain a copy of the *Abridged Citizen's Guide*, visit the Hawaii State Legislature website at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) and do a search for "abridged citizen guide," or contact our office at 586-9425 to request a print version.

## UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

The first step in navigating the legislative process is to understand the timetable and deadlines followed by the Legislature. Significant deadlines determine what bills get passed into law. Some of these legislative terms and deadlines include:

**Crossover:** Process of sending a bill that has gone through the required three readings in one house to the other (ie. from the House to the Senate, or vice versa).

Crossover deadlines this year include March 4th, March 10th

(for the Budget Crossover), and April 8th. Meeting the crossover deadlines are essential to the successful passage of law.

**Decking:** Refers to the time when a bill, in its final form in which it is intended to be passed, is made available to members of the Legislature. A measure must be decked for 48 hours prior to being voted on for passage. This year's decking deadlines are March 6th, March 16th (for the Budget Bill), April 9th, April 30th, and May 1st.

## GETTING INFORMATION ON BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

Once you are familiar with the legislative process, the second step is getting information on bills or resolutions pending before the House, Senate, and their respective committees.

To get information on the status of a bill or resolution, read testimony provided by others, or review committee reports, go to the Hawaii State Legislature website at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) and click on "Bill Status & Docs" and follow the directions provided. If you don't know the bill number you can find it using a "text search."

If you know the measure's committee, you may wish to contact the chair of that committee's office. You can also contact your district representative or senator, the House Chief Clerk's Office (586-6400) for House measures, or the Senate Chief Clerk's Office (586-6720) for Senate measures.

## SUBMITTING TESTIMONY FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

Submitting written or verbal testimony for public hearings is one way to get directly involved in the legislative process. Written or email testimony should be submitted at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled hearing.

For House bills or resolutions, testimony should be delivered to the committee vice-chair's office or faxed to the number provided on the committee's hearing notice. Testimony can also be emailed to the lead committee's email address.

For the Senate, testimony should be delivered to the committee chair's office. Testimony may also be emailed to: [testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov) or faxed to: (808)586-6659.

# HOT BILLS TO FOLLOW IN 2010

Each year thousands of bills are introduced in the House and Senate that suggest new laws, revisions to existing statutes, priorities for state spending and amendments to the State Constitution. The following are just some of the proposed bills that are already generating interesting discussion:

## THE STATE BUDGET

GET Proposals (HB 2368) Reduces the general excise tax liability of eligible businesses in the State by 10% for 4 years. Increases the general excise tax and use tax by 1% for 6 years. Increases the amount of the refundable food/general excise tax credit. Phases out the corporation income tax on corporations, regulated investment companies, and real estate investment trusts over 4 years by reducing the tax rate each year.

Emergency & Budget Reserve Fund (HB 2098) Proposes Constitutional amendment that would require deposit of a portion of projected increases in general fund revenues to Rainy Day Fund established by law. Sets 7% as the percentage that triggers the disposition.

## EDUCATION

### Structural Reforms (HB 2376, HB 2377)

- Proposes Constitutional amendments that would create an appointed Board of Education (BOE) and empower the BOE to restructure and decentralize the Department of Education.
- Implements appointed BOE that would require BOE members to be appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate

### School Days & Instructional Time (HB 1897, HB 2127, HB 2137)

- Requires collective bargaining agreements for public school employees shall provide not less than 180 instructional days per school year.
- Requires the DOE to provide a minimum of 190 instructional days in each school year.
- Requires collective bargaining agreements to provide for a minimum of 7.5 hours per instructional day for public schools.

Student Bill of Rights (HB 2071) Provides specific set of student rights and creates a mechanism by which the DOE's success at upholding these rights may be monitored and improved upon.

Furlough Fridays Fix (HB 2219) Appropriates \$50,000,000 from the Rainy Day Fund for fiscal year 2009-2010 to the General Fund.

Accountability & Transparency for the DOE Budget (HB 2423) Requires the DOE to use zero-based budgeting principles in formulating the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget.

## URBAN CONCERNS

Noise (HB 1864) Establishes a temporary emergency vehicle noise task force to determine the impact of emergency vehicle sirens in terms of excessive noise and their effect on public safety and the relative effectiveness at nighttime of the use of emergency lights rather than sirens.

Renewable Energy (HB 2197) Gives condominium association boards the authority to install or allow the installation of solar energy or wind energy devices on the common elements of condominiums.

## CRIME

Repeat Offenders Statute (HB 1752) Excludes non-violent offenders from repeat offenders statute that requires mandatory minimum prison terms.

### Human Trafficking & Prostitution (HB 1940 & HB 1937)

- Establishes class A, B, and C felony sexual human trafficking offenses and class A, B, and C felony labor trafficking offenses, and provisions related to prosecution of the offenses.
- Provides that patrons of prostitutes that are convicted of a first offense shall be required to pay \$500 surcharge and complete an 8-hour educational and counseling program.

*To search the status of these or any bills, visit [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) and click on "Bill Status & Docs."*



# MLK Jr. Day 2010: A Day On, Not A Day Off in Makiki

On January 18, 2010, thirty volunteers at Makiki District Park joined over 70,000 volunteers nationwide to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a day on, not a day off. In collaboration with State Representative Della Au Belatti, the Friends of the Makiki Community Library (FMCL), Hawaii's Senior Corps Programs, and Hui o Makiki, these volunteers gathered at Makiki District Park for a community clean-up and weekend-long food drive.

With painting and cleaning supplies from the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services, these volunteers cleaned Makiki District Park and ten bus stops in the blocks surrounding the Park.

Families with children and volunteers of all ages participated in painting over graffiti and picking up trash around the highly utilized Makiki District Park. Teenage volunteers from Maryknoll School's Key Club and Sacred Hearts Academy were especially instrumental in the day's clean-up efforts.

"I was proud to be part of this 'day on' to beautify our neighborhood and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I was especially thrilled to be able to share with my daughter the importance of service to the



community," stated Representative Belatti.

In addition to the community clean-up, FMCL's Children's Program Committee sponsored a weekend-long food drive to benefit the Hawaii Food Bank. Co-chaired by Makiki residents Linda and Johnny Prado, Nicole

Guiles and Heather Harada, the Children's Program Committee organized 10 dedicated volunteers,

prepared signs and supplies, coordinated refreshments, and collected and labeled boxes for a 3-day food drive.

"Our first community food drive was a great success. We collected 630 pounds of food and \$127.00 in cash donations," reported food drive chair Linda Prado. "Many thanks to our neighbors who walked in much needed bags of rice, cans of tuna, chili, vegetables, fruits, and other foods."



Initiated by Congress in 1994 and led by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the MLK Jr. Day of Service builds on the

legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., by transforming the federal holiday honoring Dr. King into a national day of community service. To learn more about the MLK Day of Service, visit [www.mlkday.gov](http://www.mlkday.gov). To view more pictures and video from Makiki MLK Jr. Day 2010, visit [www.makikitalks.com](http://www.makikitalks.com).

